

**FIFTY SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)**

OCTOBER 2 -11, 2017

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

NIGERIA'S STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 5:

GENERAL STATEMENTS

DELIVERED BY

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Mr. Chairman

Distinguished Delegate,

The Nigerian delegation is delighted to be part of this epoch making General Assembly of the WIPO and joins the previous speakers in expressing its good will and felicitations to the Chairman and the Director-General of the WIPO and his staff. I assure you that we shall contribute positively in all the ensuing processes to ensure successful outcomes of our deliberations.

The Nigerian delegation reaffirms its commitment to the norm-setting agenda of WIPO. We are pleased to report that Nigeria has taken positive steps in ratifying four key copyright treaties. The instrument of ratification of the WIPO Copyright Treaty; WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty; Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances; and the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are blind, Visually Impaired or otherwise Print-Disabled, will be deposited in the course of this Assembly. I invite the meeting to note that Nigeria places priority on the protection of Intellectual property rights, much more so as it is gradually transforming to an IP-generating economy.

Mr. Chairman,

Nigeria has also continued to make significant progress in copyright enforcement campaign, and various administrative interventions to support the growth of copyright based industries in Nigeria. In this regard, we acknowledge and commend WIPO for its support and assistance to Collective Management system in Nigeria.

Let me recall that Nigeria is one of the four beneficiary countries for the Pilot Project on Intellectual Property Rights Education and Professional Training with Judicial Training Institutions in developing

and least developed countries being driven by the WIPO Committee on Intellectual Property and Development. It is gratifying to share with this Assembly the fact that the implementation of the project has commenced in Nigeria, and appreciable progress has been made in terms of the preliminary engagements. Nigeria places high level priority on this project, which is expected to enhance the application of intellectual property rules by Judicial Officers to facilitate fair, efficient, well-informed decisions concerning IPR disputes in the larger context of protection and enforcement of rights.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is delighted to state that Nigeria is honoured to be one of the two countries elected to host a WIPO External Office in Africa. The Decision of the 57th Assembly to confirm Nigeria's selection to host the External Office will not only be timely, but crucial in restoring balance and equity in the global administrative structure of WIPO. Prior to this development, Africa in spite of its huge population and abundance of human and material resource was not geographically represented in WIPO's external network of offices. Accordingly, the new WIPO External Offices in Nigeria and Algeria will significantly bring WIPO closer to our region and enable the organization to better deliver results on relevant organizational strategic goals and programmes, including facilitation of the use of IP for development in Africa. Nigeria is at an advanced stage of the implementation of this decision, having finalized the relevant host country agreement with the WIPO Secretariat.

Mr. Chairman,

In aligning with the statement of the African group, the Nigerian delegation expresses grave concern over the continued delay in making

good progress in all the current agenda of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), and IGC matters on GRs, TK and TCEs. The situation clearly calls for reappraisal by member states.

Mr. Chairman,

We do appreciate WIPO current work on Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) Programme within the framework of the development agenda recommendation, which Nigeria has made significant progress. We therefore call on WIPO to facilitate national offices, especially LDCs to access specialized patent databases to encourage national economic development through innovation and technology transfer.

Similarly, Nigeria wishes to call on WIPO to expand the scope of its technical assistance programmes by undertaking a complete automation of registration processes of member state national offices, as well as their regional and sub-regional offices, as a matter of priority to match with intellectual Property related development needs in addressing its development agenda recommendation 9 which would bridge the digital divide among member states. We urge WIPO to also scale up human capacity enhancement/building programmes as automation comes with demands for new way of doing things for which capacity may be lacking or not sufficient enough.

I thank you.
